

## Early Care & Learning Expansion & Access Grants FAQs

### 1. How were counties selected for Round 1 Application eligibility?

The first application round is limited to licensed child care facilities in or planned for specific North Carolina counties chosen based on criteria that includes low performing school districts, high poverty school districts, and scarcity of NC Pre-K programs.

**Application Round 1 is open April 11, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. until May 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

### 2. What criteria is used to select counties for Round 2 Application eligibility?

The second application round will be open to licensed child care facilities in or planned for any North Carolina location. **Application Round 2 will open May 22, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. and close June 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

### 3. What criteria will be used to select projects to approve for funding?

Grant applications will be evaluated for:

- Facility located in a child care desert.
- Project increases the capacity of the program or improves access to child care by adding new NC Pre-K classroom or new child care facility.
- Project will increase access to child care for families with infants and toddlers.
- Child care program serves multiple shifts.
- Child care program participates in the Subsidized Child Care Assistance program
- Child care program offers NC Pre-K

### 4. How can an unlicensed facility or planned program in an eligible county access an application link?

- a) To apply, ***unlicensed facility or planned program*** applicants will need have or create a [business account](#) in the North Carolina Identity Management Service (NCID).
- b) The following information must be emailed to DCDEE Customer Support email [DCDEE\\_Support@DHHS.nc.gov](mailto:DCDEE_Support@DHHS.nc.gov):

- ☐ Name of facility (if known)
- ☐ Provider name
- ☐ Provider phone number
- ☐ Address of facility (if known) or Temporary address (PO Box, home address, etc.) if facility address not yet available
- ☐ County where the facility will be located
- ☐ School District where the facility will be located
- ☐ Business NCID (**No spaces. Do not** send password.)
- ☐ Whether facility will be a child care center or family child care home

- c) This information will be used to set up an account in the E&A Grant Portal for the applicant within 72 hours. The applicant will then need to log into the portal and complete the full application process. This will apply whether the unlicensed applicant has a physical address for the facility or not.
- d) Payment for grant applicants who do not currently have a licensed facility will be made through the NC DHHS Controller's Office and will be required to complete a W-9. Unlicensed grant recipients awarded an E&A Grant will be contacted by DCDEE with further instructions.

**5. Does the owner and/or administrator of a planned facility need to reside in the eligible county where the facility will open?**

No. Eligibility to apply is determined by the county for which the facility is planned.

**6. Where can I find my draft application if I am unable to complete application in one session?**

After logging in, look under Benefit Programs for a link to the Expansion and Access Grants link.

**7. Are religious sponsored child care programs eligible for the Expansion and Access Grant?**

Yes. Faith-based child care programs operating with a Notice of Compliance (GS 110-106) are considered regulated and can apply for E&A grant funds.

**8. Is the Expansion and Access Grant taxable?**

Yes. Consult a tax professional for advice on budgeting for taxes.

**9. What are examples of each type of project:**

We regret the Division does not have the capacity to pre-approve each individual project; however here are a few examples under each category.

- **start-up costs\*** associated with establishing and opening a new licensed or regulated child care facility. Examples include: purchase a building, purchase land, purchase of materials, purchase of furniture, or purchase a vehicle.
- **quality improvements** for existing licensed or regulated child care facilities that increase the classroom or facility's capacity or upgrade its star rating; *or* Examples include: purchase of curriculum, purchase of materials, projects to improve health and safety
- **capital improvements or renovations** to existing licensed or regulated child care facilities, including adding or upgrading outdoor play and learning environments, or increasing a facility's total capacity. Examples include: purchase a building, cost of building, roof, concrete pavement for leveling, pavement for a driveway, add a room for child care space

**10. Are vehicle purchases allowable?**

Yes, but vehicle expenses can be considered as start-up costs for a ***new facility only***. New Child Care Centers may use grant funds towards the full cost of a van/bus/other transport vehicle. New Family Child Care Homes may use grant funds towards up to 30% of the purchase of a vehicle.

**11. Provide some specific examples of usage of this grant for Family Child Care Homes:**

- Starting and opening a new family child care home facility, including: renovations to a home to meet child care requirements
- Building an addition to child care facility portion of home, especially to increase capacity, create more slots for infants/toddlers, allow program to serve children with disabilities or offer child care during 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> shifts
- Enclosing space such as a porch or garage to improve child care facility rating, to increase capacity, create more slots for infants/toddlers, allow or improve program's ability to serve children with disabilities or offer child care during 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> shifts.